



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html

NOVEMBER 8, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**TWO KC FELONS, ONE INDEPENDENCE DRUG USER
PLEAD GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS, AMMUNITION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men and an Independence, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, to illegally possessing firearms and ammunition. The indictments, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Ontario D. Lewis**, 27, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Lewis** admitted that he was in possession of a High Standard .22-caliber revolver on June 15, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Lewis** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for fraud in Alameda, Calif.

Lewis was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on March 25, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Damone L. Harris**, 31, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to being a felon in possession of ammunition.

By pleading guilty, **Harris** admitted that he was in possession of five rounds of Remington Peters ammunition on Aug. 5, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal

for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Harris** has two 1991 criminal felony convictions for robbery and distributing a controlled substance.

Harris was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 17, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Ryan G. Prater**, 25, of Independence, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance illegally in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Prater** admitted that he was in possession of a Beretta .40-caliber pistol on Jan. 11, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. The indictment alleges that **Prater** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine at the time he possessed the firearm.

In a separate case, **Prater** also pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between July and September 2005, Graves said.

Prater was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 4, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html